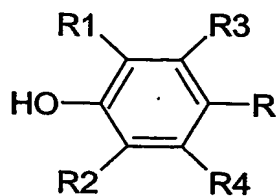


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CLAIMS

1. An anti-acne composition for topical application comprising:

(i) from 0.01% to 20% by weight of a compound of formula (I)



(I)

wherein:

R1, R2, R3 and R4 are the same or different and are selected from H, OH, and OCH₃; and

R is alkyl containing from 1 to 20 carbon atoms;

the compound of formula (I) optionally being in the form of an ester with a carboxylic acid comprising an alkyl group containing from 1 to 6 carbon atoms;

(ii) between 0.1% and 20% by weight of at least one further anti-acne agent;

(iii) from 0% to 30% by weight of at least one surfactant; and

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(iv) a topically acceptable diluent or carrier.

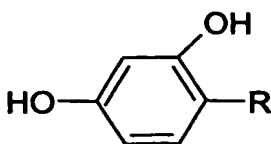
2. Composition as claimed in Claim 1, wherein the further anti-acne agent is selected from desquamators, keratolytics, comedolytics and exfoliants.

3. Composition as claimed in Claim 2, wherein the further anti-acne agent is selected from one or more of benzoyl peroxide, resorcinol, resorcinol monoacetate, sulfur, salicylic acid, derivatives of salicylic acid having one or more (C₁ to C₁₂) alkyl and/or (C₁ to C₁₂) alkoxy groups on the aromatic ring, phenol, cresol, metacresyl acetate, lactic acid, glycolic acid, pyruvic acid, malic acid, urea, N-acetyl cysteine, retinoic acid, retinol, retinyl esters and combinations of retinol and retinyl esters with retinoid boosters.

4. Composition as claimed in Claim 3, wherein the further anti-acne agent is selected from one or more of benzoyl peroxide, sulfur and salicylic acid.

5. Composition as claimed in any one of the preceding claims, wherein the compound of formula (I) has the formula (II)

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(II)

wherein R is as defined in Claim 1.

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6. Composition as claimed in any one of the preceding claims, wherein R is alkyl containing 4 to 14 carbon atoms.

7. Composition as claimed in any one of the preceding
10 claims, wherein R is alkyl containing 5 to 8 carbon atoms.

8. Composition as claimed in any one of the preceding claims, wherein the compound of formula (I) is 4-hexylresorcinol.

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9. Composition as claimed in any one of the preceding claims, wherein the surfactant is present in an amount of from 0.1% to 10% by weight.

20 10. Composition as claimed in any one of the preceding claims, wherein the cosmetically acceptable diluent or carrier comprises water together with one or more components selected from aliphatic alcohols containing two or three carbon atoms.

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11. Composition as claimed in any one of the preceding claims, which comprises one or more of a fragrance, a clay,

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a surfactant, a gel-forming material, a silicone, an emollient, an antioxidant, a humectant and a pigment.

12. Use of a composition as defined in any one of
5 Claims 1 to 11 in the manufacture of a medicament for the treatment of acne.

13. Method of treating acne in humans which comprises
topically applying to the skin of a human suffering from
10 acne a composition of any one of Claims 1 to 11.

14. Use as claimed in Claim 12 or method as claimed in Claim 13, wherein the acne is caused by *Propionobacterium acnes*.